GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3669
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2000
OCEAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL)

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is credited with unique under water cultural heritage;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the details of oceanic archaeological activities undertaken duringeach of the last three years and the results achieved thereby;

(d) whether these activities have slowed down during the said period ;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a),(b)&(c) India due to its long coastline and maritime history has a rich underwater cultural heritage. During the last three years, the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) of CSIR has carried out marine archaeological investigations in Dwarka, Bet Dwarka Somnath and Goa waters. The major findings relate to:

At Dwarka : Large number of structures with scattered stone blocks, fallen walls, triangular and prismatic stone anchors were found. Also a ridge running parallel to the shoreline noticed near the anchor zone and location of Gomati river channel perhaps indicate that Dwarka must have been an active port.

At Bet Dwarka : Late Harappan Potsherds with Graffiti marks, stone anchors, cannons and iron anchors were found.

At Somnath : Single?holed stone objects, triangular stone anchors and rockcut channels were found at water depth between 6 m - 10 m.

At Amee Shoals : The shipwreck excavated showed antiquities like cannons, cannon balls potsherds, granite blocks, rudder and iron anchor.

At St. George Reef : In the shipwreck household decoratives , flooring tiles made of terracotta were found.

(d) No Sir. The work is progressing at the desired & Planned pace.

(e)&(f) Do not arise.